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City inviting public to attend "Great Places" presentation

Denison competing to be one of three pilot projects

by Gordon Wolf

City officials of Denison have a goal of filling the Donna Reed Theatre this Wednesday at 4 p.m. for its "Iowa Great Places" presentation.

Good attendance at the presentation will show a panel of "Iowa Great Places" judges the measure of support the public has for its community.

Denison is one of 74 "places" competing to be one of three Iowa Great Places pilot projects. The Iowa Great Places Initiative is a new program launched by the Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with 18 state agencies. Along with the honor of being selected, the three pilot "places" will have resources channeled to them from state agencies.

Panels of advisory-board members have been listening to presentations since September 12. The last presentations are scheduled for September 28. On October 11, the

Great Places "Pilots" will be announced at the Iowa Great Places Visions in Focus Conference at the University of Iowa.

Denison City Manager Al Roder said the city's presentation is based on the history of partnering together and the entrepreneurial spirit of Denison.

The 60-minute multi-media presentation will cover the highlights of what makes Denison a great place, he added. A written presentation supplied to the panel will be able to go into more depth.

"It will be a very dynamic presentation," said Roder.

Among other elements, the presentation will spend two to three minutes on each of the seven "dimensions" required by Iowa Great Places Initiative, he added.

"Because we have such a limited time, we can only skim the surface of what Denison is all about," said Roder.

"The written proposal will be more in depth, and even at that, we know we're not going to be able to cover every detail; there is so much heritage and history. What we're trying to do is give them (the panel members) a presentation of what makes Denison a great place," he added.

Refreshments will be served at the presentation.

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